

I am writing to support the State Bill HB 5140 for the protection of our horseshoe crabs from the licensed, commercial anglers who capture and kill them for bait. I am horrified that this could be happening to these wonderful living fossils that have survived for over 445 million years. They are an important part of the ecology of our coastal community. Their eggs are a major food source for migrating birds including the federally-threatened red knot. I have recently found out that the blood of a horseshoe crab is also valuable and needed for vaccines. For these reasons, why would we want them used for bait and thrown away. We should be protecting them and trying to increase their numbers. Not destroying them. Clearly a decline in horseshoe crabs will impact us as well as other species.

As someone who grew up in Greenwich, CT and spent most summer days at the beach I have enjoyed them and passed on the love and caring for them to my kids and now grandkids. We have taught our kids to respect these creatures of the sea and not ever harm them. Turn them over and help them get back in to the water if necessary.

The extinction of these crabs would be a crime! Please do not let this happen.

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